Appendix 7

# Budget 2019 process

**BUDGET-SENSITIVE**

| KEY | Treasury/MoF process | Wider Ministerial engagement | Budget Ministers |
|---|---|---|---|

## February- March

### Final Vote team assessments due
Friday 15 February

- Following internal Treasury moderation, Vote teams will finalise assessments of individual initiatives by Friday 15 February.

### First draft packages for new spending and prioritisation developed with MoF
Friday 15 February – Friday 29 February

- Using Vote team assessments, and any advice from officials groups, the Budget team will pull together an initial package for consideration by the Minister of Finance to take to Cabinet Committees.
- This will be sent over at the end of the week of 18 February for discussion at Budget Matters on Thursday 28 February. VAs to be invited to meeting.
- A package for Cabinet Committees to consider will be sent out by Friday 29 February.
- A prioritisation package for Finance Ministers to consider will also be sent out by Friday 29 February.

### Cabinet Committees consider first draft packages and Finance Ministers consider prioritisation submissions
Week of 5 March

- SWC, MCR and DEV will consider new spending packages and provide feedback on the proposed package for their areas. GOV will consider system issues and context for the Budget, including around capability pressures and data, digital and ICT initiatives. Committees should have at least 30 mins for each meeting.
- Finance Ministers will consider the proposed prioritisation submissions.
- The Budget team will incorporate feedback and will work with MoF to develop an amended package to take to BM1. This material will be sent by Friday 8 March.

### Budget Ministers 1
Monday 11 March

- Budget Ministers to consider key strategic decisions such as the prioritisation of cost pressures and priority-aligning initiatives.
- Budget Ministers to consider draft package for new spending and prioritisation exercise following input from Cabinet Committees and Finance Ministers.
- If time allows, Budget Ministers may also wish to discuss publications for the Wellbeing Budget.

## March – April

### Bilateral meetings
Wednesday 6 – Thursday 21 March

- Bilateral meetings will be held with small groups of Ministers, and some select individual Ministers to discuss complex areas and packages of initiatives.
- These will be led by either MoF or Minister Clark.
- Following bilateral meetings, and any feedback from BM1, the Budget team and MoF will develop a revised package to take to BM2. this will be sent out by Friday 22 March.

### Budget Ministers 2
Monday 25 March

- Budget Ministers to take the majority of decisions for Budget 2019, including baseline prioritisation and consider non-spending proposals.
- Advice on preliminary economic and fiscal forecasts will be provided for context for this meeting.
- Budget Ministers may wish to confirm publications for Budget 2019.
- If decisions are taken, agencies can begin to prepare financial recommendations.

### Cabinet Committees are provided with the package agreed at BM2
Week of 1 April

- Cabinet Committees are provided with the opportunity to confirm their comfort with the package and raise any significant issues.
- Any significant issues can be incorporated into material for BM3, which will be sent by Friday 5 April.

### Cabinet considers technical Budget paper
Monday 18 March

- Cabinet considers the technical Budget paper. This is for technical decisions that don't require new funding from Budget allowances.
- The paper will be lodged Thursday 14 March.

*Note: Agencies' initiatives are due into CFISnet on 20 February, and financial recommendations are due on 27 February. The Treasury will send the Minister of Finance a report with the Cabinet paper in the week of 11 March.*

## April - May

### Budget Ministers 3
Monday 8 April

- Budget Ministers to take outstanding decisions in order to take a final package to Cabinet.
- Indications of economic and fiscal implications of potential tax and welfare packages will be provided for context for this meeting (if required).

### Cabinet paper is prepared and lodged
Tuesday 9 – Friday 12 April

- Following BM3, agencies submit any outstanding financial recommendations for Cabinet paper.
- Budget team and MoF work on Cabinet paper and recommendations.
- Paper is lodged (assuming late lodging) on Friday 12 April.

### Cabinet considers final Budget package
Monday 15 April

Cabinet considers the significant Budget paper, and the production process begins.

**Budget moratorium begins, and lasts until Thursday 30 May**.

*To ensure the Budget documents accurately reflect all decisions made by Ministers, no further decisions that impact appropriations or revenue may be taken during the moratorium period.*

### Production process
Mid April – Budget Day

Involves press releases, BEFU, Fiscal Strategy Report and other Budget products being produced and printed.

### Budget Day
Thursday 30 May

The Budget is presented to the House, and all documents are published.

**Budget moratorium ends.**